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Christa Dean/STB

08/16/2004 02:55 PM

To john.sims@bnsf.com, sidney.strickland@bnsf.com,
dennis.gimmestad@mnhs.org
cc Vicki Rutson/STB@STB, Kenneth Blodgett/STB@STB

bcc

Subject AB-6 (Sub-No. 413X)

Dear Mr. Sims, Mr. Strickland, and Mr. Gimmestad:

I am writing to provide an update on the progress of this abandonment proceeding. The attached letter was sent to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and notifies the ACHP that we have initiated the consultation process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



Letter to ACHP AB 6 (413X).wpd

Additionally, the Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission has faxed a comment letter to the Board, and I will fax a copy of this letter to each of you this afternoon. I will be contacting you this week to discuss the next steps and preparation of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Thank you,
Christa Dean

Christa L. Dean, Attorney Adviser
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
202.565.1606

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Planning and Review
Mr. Don L. Klima, Director
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington DC 20004

August 16, 2004

Re: STB Docket No. AB - 6 (413X), The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company- Abandonment Exemption - in Washington County, MN

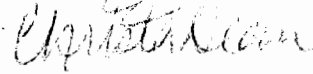
Dear Mr. Klima:

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) that is responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, including the National Historic Preservation Act. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, I am writing to notify you that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties. Accordingly, SEA has begun the consultation process and will be working with Dennis Gimmestad at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the railroad, and other concerned or affected parties as needed. We seek your participation in the Section 106 process at this time.

The following documents are enclosed for your review: 1) the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company's notice of exemption that describes the proposed action and contains information about the rail line; 2) the Environmental and Historic Reports submitted by the railroad, including a February 29, 2004 letter from the SHPO; 3) the June 4, 2004 Environmental Assessment prepared by SEA; and 4) the July 9, 2004 letter to the Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission, inviting the organization to participate as a consulting party.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,



Christa Dean

Attorney Adviser

Section of Environmental Analysis

Attachments

cc: Dennis Gimmestad, Minnesota SHPO
Sidney Strickland, BNSF
John A. Sims, BNSF